

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, the claims remaining in the application are: claims 1-20 of which claims 1, 3 and 4 have been amended.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner and express his appreciation for the very helpful and thorough comments set forth by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed October 15, 2003.

The specification, claims and abstract have been amended in light of the Examiner's very helpful comments.

It is respectfully submitted that the present Amendment overcomes the 35 USC 112 rejection of the claims as initially filed.

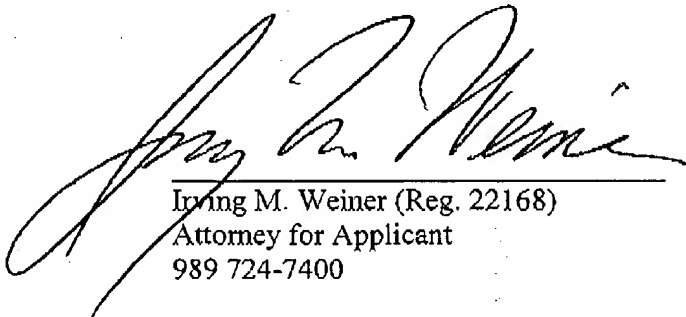
It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner does not agree that the application is now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner promptly telephone the undersigned attorney for applicant in an effort to facilitate the prosecution, and/or to narrow the issues for appeal, if necessary.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

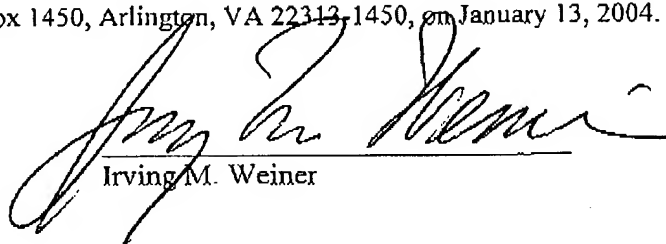
Date: January 13, 2004
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Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that the foregoing amendment was sent by first class mail to Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Arlington, VA 22313-1450, on January 13, 2004.



Irving M. Weiner